



James 'Jim the Barber' Nikolai

May 8, 1933 - October 31, 2016

James 'Jim the Barber' Nikolai, 83, of Lindenhurst, IL passed away on Monday, October 31, 2016.

Jim was a longtime Lindenhurst resident and worked as a barber in Lindenhurst and Lake Villa from 1959 until his retirement in 2007. He was also an active member of Prince of Peace Catholic Church where he volunteered as an usher and was a Knights of Columbus member. Jim was a proud veteran of the United States Army, serving in the Korean War from 1953-1955 as a Corporal. He received the Korean Service Ribbon, United Nations Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and an award for marksmanship. Following his service in the Army, Jim was a 60 year member of the Lake Villa American Legion and the VFW. In May 2016, he was honored by the Lake County Honor Flight to Washington, DC.

Jim is survived by his children David (Robin), Jim (Amy), and Brian; grandchildren Danielle (Jim) Sisson, Samantha Vos, Abigail Nikolai, Rebecca Nikolai, Joseph Nikolai, and Jenelle Nikolai; great granddaughter Allison Sisson; siblings Clarence (Norma), Richard (Marie), Patrick (Helen), Lucille Adamus, and Jeanette Richards; and by many nieces, nephews, and lifelong friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife Ariel, daughter Patricia Nikolai, and his

sister Lenore Heinemann.

Visitation will be from 4 – 8 p.m. on Friday, November 4, 2016 at Ringa Funeral Home, 122 S. Milwaukee Ave. Lake Villa, IL 60046. Prayers will begin at the funeral home at 9:30 a.m. Saturday followed by a procession to Prince of Peace Church for a 10 a.m. Mass. Burial will follow at Millburn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Jim's memory to the Lake Villa Township Food Pantry or to the Lake County Honor Flight, www.lakecountynorflight.org.

Cemetery Details

Millburn Cemetery

Millburn Road and Crawford Road
Millburn, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 4. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Ringa Funeral Home
122 S. Milwaukee Ave.
Lake Villa, IL 60046
(847) 356-2146
info@ringafuneralhome.com
<https://www.ringafuneralhome.com>

Prayers

NOV 5. 9:30 AM (CT)

Ringa Funeral Home
122 S. Milwaukee Ave.
Lake Villa, IL 60046
(847) 356-2146
info@ringafuneralhome.com
<https://www.ringafuneralhome.com>

Mass

NOV 5. 10:00 AM (CT)

Prince of Peace Catholic Church
135 S. Milwaukee Ave
Lake Villa, IL 60046
(847) 356-7915

Tribute Wall



“ I was thinking about Jim today 11/11/2025. I remember him marching in the Memorial day parade as part of the color guard. Back on Memorial Day in 1999 he offered to come to our house and give my dad, Aldo Amistani his last haircut. I got my haircut by Jim as a kid out in Lindenhurst and later in life at old Mike's barbershop in Lake Villa. I know Jim passed a long time ago but I wanted the family to know that there are people out here that still remember him fondly. I'm a better person to have known him.
Gene Amistani

Gene Amistani - November 11, 2025 at 01:06 PM



“ *James 'Jim the Barber' Nikolai*

October 04, 2023 at 02:13 PM



“ *James 'Jim the Barber' Nikolai*

December 31, 2022 at 11:36 AM



“ 49 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Ringa Funeral Home and Cremation Service - November 04, 2016 at 12:35 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of James 'Jim the Barber' Nikolai.



November 03, 2016 at 06:22 PM

DS

“ Jim and I have many mutual friends in the Lake Villa area. Jim cut my dad's hair long before cutting mine. Not only being the best barber I ever had, Jim always had fun and interesting things to tell while cutting my hair. Camping with family was one thing he must have cheeriest. He sure brought it up every year. He will be deeply missed by all that knew this wonderful caring, patriotic man. I was so lucky to have Jim come to my house for the last 9 years to cut my hair after he closed up shop. All the handicap and Vets he went to as well. Thoughts and prayers go out to all the Nikolai Family. R.I.P. my friend!

Don & Carol Swanson

Donald Swanson - November 02, 2016 at 01:40 PM

TB

“ Team Due and your Northern Trust friends on B-8 purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James 'Jim the Barber' Nikolai.



Team Due and your Northern Trust friends on B-8 -
November 02, 2016 at 10:15 AM

PB

“ Dearest Dave, Robin and Family, sending loving thoughts and prayers to all of you at this sad time. A very special person and so good to many. Take care and God Bless. George and Penny Bailitz, Twin Lakes, Wi.

Penny Bailitz - November 01, 2016 at 06:52 PM

MT

“ Jim was a great guy. I lived in Lake Villa with my brother for several years in the early 2000s and availed myself of his great service and interesting talk. Both before and after my actual residing in Lake Villa, I made sure on every visit to my brother, I worked in a haircut from Jim. As a retired Navy type, I appreciated Jim's quiet, sincere patriotism, too.

The world, from many perspectives, is a lesser place without Jim.

From 350 miles away

MARK TEIPEL

Mark Teipel - November 01, 2016 at 01:43 PM

JC

“ I remember him well. He was my dad's barber for years. I am sorry for your loss. JoAnn Calderone.

JoAnn Calderone - November 01, 2016 at 07:01 AM

UT

“ Uncle Terry purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of James 'Jim the Barber' Nikolai.



Uncle Terry - October 31, 2016 at 07:46 PM